

In the Specification:

Change 1: Please replace the first two paragraphs in the Brief Description of the Drawings with the following:

FIG.'s 1A-1I represent ~~FIG. 1 represents~~ the alignment of the BASB024 polynucleotide sequences ~~sequence~~.

FIG.'s 2A-2D represent ~~FIG. 2 represents~~ the alignment of the BASB024 polypeptide sequences ~~sequence~~.

Change 2: Please replace the paragraph at page 52, lines 19-21 with the following:

The sample was loaded at a flow-rate of 0.5 ml/min on a 2 ml Ni²⁺-NTA Agarose column (QIAGEN ~~Qiagen~~). The column was equilibrated in 6 M Guanidine Chloride, 500 mM NaCl, 20 mM phosphate pH 8.0.

Change 3: Please replace the paragraph at page 53, line 13 through page 54, line 2 with the following:

Briefly, around 10 µg of partially purified BASB024 *N.meningitidis* serogroup B protein are put into a SDS-PAGE gradient gel (4-20%, Novex, code n°EC6028) for electrophoretic migration. Proteins are transferred to nitrocellulose sheet (0.45 µm, Bio-rad code n° 162-0114) at 100 volts for 1 hour using a Bio-rad Trans-blot system (code n°170-3930). Afterwards, filter is blocked with PBS - 0.05 % Tween 20 overnight at room temperature, before incubation with the human sera (these sera are diluted 100 times in PBS - 0.05 % Tween 20) or with anti-pentaHis mouse antibody (QIAGEN ~~Qiagen~~ 34660) (this antibody is diluted 200 times in PBS - 0.05 % Tween 20, and incubated on the nitrocellulose sheet for two hours at room temperature with gentle shaking. After three repeated washing steps in PBS - 0.05 % Tween 20 for 5 min., the nitrocellulose sheet is incubated at room temperature for 1 hour under gentle shaking with the appropriate conjugate (biotinylated anti-human Ig antibodies, from sheep, Amersham code n°RPN1003 or anti-mouse Ig antibodies, Amersham code n°RPN1001) diluted at 1/500 in the

same washing buffer. The membrane is washed three times as previously, and incubated for 30 min with agitation using the streptavidin-peroxidase complex (Amersham code n°1051) diluted at 1/1000 in the washing buffer. After the last three repeated washing steps, the revelation occurs during the 20 min incubation time in a 50 ml solution containing 30 mg 4-chloro-1-naphtol (Sigma), 10 ml methanol, 40 ml of ultra-pure water, and 30 μ l of H_2O_2 . The staining is stopped while washing the membrane several times in distilled water.